Submodule 2

2.2.1

***Worksheet Q&R***

**1. In the space below, describe the stasis at the beginning of Wedding Band. In other words, “Where are we?” “When is it (time, day, and year)?” “Who are the people involved?” “What is the dramatic situation in which the characters find themselves as the play unfolds?”**

Wedding Band takes place in the backyards of three house, in a city by the sea, in South Carolina the summer 1918. The main character is a black woman by the name of Julia who is in a relationship with a white man by the name of Herman. Julia neighbors are Fanny (the landlord), Lula whose son Nelson is in the army, Mattie who has a daughter named Teeta and a “husband” who is overseas fighting, Princess the white girl that Mattie watches, and a bellboy. Although Julia is new, the neighbors are quick to try to know all about her. But they soon find out when Herman gets fatally ill in her home.

**2. What is the intrusion that causes the stasis to be broken and the dramatic action to develop, often at an increasingly rapid pace, to the end of the play? NOTE: Arguments might be made for several different points where stasis is broken. Be prepared to defend your point of view, if different from other students.**

In the play *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White* the intrusion occurs when Herman illness is exposed. Before Herman falls in front of everyone, the play is pretty stagnant. It’s only then, that Herman’s mother and sister are introduced. It drives the play forward. Once his illness is discovered, action has to take place. The characters had to decide where to take him, if a doctor should be called, Julia finally meets her “in-laws”.

**3. Why do the events of the play take place at this particular time and place? In other words, what is the unique factor which is out of the ordinary that causes a turn of events to take place?**

This is the day that Julia finally meets everyone and gets a wedding ring that she has wanted for 10 years. It’s supposed to be the start of a new life for her. However, this is also the day that Herman’s illness reaches its ultimate peak. This is the day that their relationship also starts to end.

**4. State the dramatic questions that must be answered by the end of the play? (Ordinarily, the dramatic question shares a close connection with the intrusion.)**

Most people would question would if Julia and Herman would get married? But another question that rises in the end is what is to come? Will Julia leave her new family and will Octobre and Nelson return home from the war and there actually be change in the world that they fought for.Will Julia actually go to Philadelphia?

**5. Use Julia to answer the questions concerning character. Ball says, a character is revealed by what he/she does, that is the dramatic actions that are taken by that character. Examine what the character wants (NOTE: In Wedding Band the wants of Julia are in flux. They change as the play progresses). The wants of a character often encounter obstacles that get in the way of achieving those wants. Ball says there are 4 kinds of obstacles that frustrate the wants of a character. They are: a. Me against myself, b. Me against another individual or individuals, c. Me against society (that is law, social norms, etc.) and, d. Me against fate, the universe, natural forces, God or the gods. In answering these questions be sure to point to the particular obstacles that demonstrate these obstacles in the play.**

Julia is a woman who wants “happily ever after” with the a guy who she has been dating for ten years. However there are obstacles that stand in the way of this. She is battling society, individuals, and fate. Julia unfortunately lives in a time where a biracial relationship isn’t just sinful, but it’s criminal. It’s so criminal, that she can’t even call the doctor to the house once Herman got sick because it will cause so much backlash. She is also battling fate. Julia is very optimistic when it comes to the future of her relationship with Herman. Plans are even being made for them to move up north. However fate took control. Herman died, listening to the words of Julia acting out what could've been. Julia also battles individuals and at one point herself. Their (Julia and Herman) relationship has to be hidden. Herman’s family doesn’t accept it, and neither does Julia’s new family. But because of the disrespect Julia endured with Herman’s mother and the “threat” of having to move away from her family and go back to being lonesome and quiet; Julia denies her love for Herman the next day when he returns.

**6. The most important information in most plays takes place during theatrical moments. Identify the most theatrical moments in Wedding Band.**

Some of the most theatrical moments in the play are as follow:

\*Teeta losing the quarter: this is the introduction, this is how the story begins

\*Herman showing up: we finally get to put a “face” to the name

\*Herman falling ill: this creates the play’s intrusion

\*Herman mother and sister showing up: they changed the entire pace and dynamic of the show

**7. Provide at least three examples of images in Wedding Band. How does the title of the play help us understand the images in the play? (Remember Ball says that, “An image is the use of something we know that tells us something we don’t know.” He goes on to say that images invoke and expand, rather than define and limit.”)**

Example one: the wedding band. The wedding band was never placed on the finger, it was on the chain. Most people assumed it’s because the marriage can’t happen soon, but it’s actually because it’ll never occur.

Example two: home. Herman’s mother keeps emphasizing that Herman should go home. That he should spend his final moments at home. That tells the audience that Herman will die.

Example three: The ending monologue. Julia paints and image of what could've been. Their happily ever after. Them waving goodbye to their families, who eventually accepted them. At this moment the audience knows that Herman is dying, the wedding band will never be on the finger, and their dream fades away the further Herman fades away.

**8. Ordinarily, there are many themes in most plays. List the themes in Wedding Band.**

Marriage is a theme that if often times talked about in Wedding band. Along with marriage, biracial relationships is a theme of play. The wedding band is a representation of marriage. Even the neighbors talked about marriage quite frequently. Biracial relationship was brought to the to the forefront from the very beginning. The main character is in a biracial relationship. The theme of love and hate is also expressed. A relationship that shared so much love experienced hate the entire duration of its existence.

**9. Most American plays have something to do with family and/or family relationships. What does family have to do with the dramatic action in Wedding Band? Perhaps you might argue for several different kinds of family in this particular play. What do you think?**

A family doesn’t have to be classified as a set of parents and children. A family is what Julia ended up finding in Mattie, Teeta, Fanny, Nelson, and Lula. A family is what Julia and Herman were trying to build, but could never obtain. Herman’s family was dysfunctional.His parents were married, but his mother didn’t love his father. Family is important in this play. Marriage is important to Julia, as well as the other characters.